

The shocking decision of Sinclair Broadcasting to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary in these last days before the election is a threat to the proper functioning of American democracy and an all-too-clear example of the dangerous direction media consolidation is now taking in our country -- akin to Soviet-style propoganda..

Sinclair uses public airwaves without charge, and is legally obligated to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.